

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

50. (Twice amended) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within  $\beta$ -strand 7 and connecting the  $\beta$ -strand 7, via short  $\beta$ -strand 8, to  $\alpha$ -helix 4, and ending within  $\alpha$ -helix 4, based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said isolated peptide does not have toxin agonist activity and is capable of antagonizing toxin-mediated activation of T lymphocytes.

51. (Amended) The isolated and purified peptide of Claim 50 wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide is homologous to amino acids 150-161 of *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin B (SEQ. ID NO.: 1).

65. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 1 wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity.

66. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 2.

67. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 3 wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity.

68. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 4.

69. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 5.

70. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 6.

71. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 7.

72. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 8.

73. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 9.

74. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 10.

75. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 11.

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76. (Amended) A composition which inhibits pyrogenic exotoxin-mediated activation of T-lymphocytes comprising an isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within  $\beta$ -strand 7 and connecting the  $\beta$ -strand 7, via short  $\beta$ -strand 8, to  $\alpha$ -helix 4, and ending within  $\alpha$ -helix 4, based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, in an amount effective to inhibit exotoxin-induced expression of an RNA encoded by the IL-2, INF- $\gamma$  and/or TNF- $\beta$  genes, and a carrier.

77  
80. (Amended) An immunogenic composition for eliciting antibodies that block pyrogenic exotoxin mediated activation of T-lymphocytes comprising an isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within  $\beta$ -strand 7 and connecting the  $\beta$ -strand 7, via short  $\beta$ -strand 8, to  $\alpha$ -helix 4, and ending within  $\alpha$ -helix 4,

based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, in an amount effective to elicit said antibodies, and a carrier.

*Rule 85*  
 85. (New) An immunogenic composition for eliciting protective immunity against toxic shock comprising an isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within  $\beta$ -strand 7 and connecting the  $\beta$ -strand 7, via short  $\beta$ -strand 8, to  $\alpha$ -helix 4, and ending within  $\alpha$ -helix 4, based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, in an amount effective to elicit said protective immunity, and a carrier.

*86*  
 86. (New) The composition of claim 76 wherein said peptide has an amino acid sequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of amino acids 150-161 of *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin B (SEQ ID NO:1).

*87*  
 87. (New) The immunogenic composition of claim 80 wherein said peptide has an amino acid sequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of amino acids 150-161 of *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin B (SEQ ID NO:1).

*88*  
 88. (New) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence KXaa<sub>(3)</sub>TXaaQEXaaD wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, wherein Xaa is an amino acid.

*89*  
 89. (New) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence KKKXaa<sub>(6)</sub>LD wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, wherein Xaa is an amino acid.

*90*  
 90. (New) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence charged amino acid-Xaa<sub>(2)</sub>-hydrophobic amino acid-X-hydrophobic amino acid-polar amino